

Testimony in support of House Bill 1148.

Mr. Chair and members of the House Transportation Committee thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 1148.

My name is Justin Kristan, I am a resident of West Fargo, North Dakota. I am speaking in support of House Bill 1148.

I have been an avid bicyclist since 1982 and enjoy walking regularly for recreation and utility. Since 1982, technological advancements in the bicycle industry have brought about many benefits such as the development of lighter frame materials, disc brakes and the development of reliable and durable electric assisted bicycles.

Electric assisted bicycles have reached a level of sophistication and durability that makes them very appealing for anyone who would like to ride a bicycle but needs or desires to have a little bit of assist to get going from a stationary state such as at a stop sign or traffic signal. Electric assisted bicycles are also very appealing for bicyclists who may have hills to contend with as is the case in Bismarck and other western cities within North Dakota. Anyone who has done any bicycling in flatter areas of the state knows there are days when the wind speed makes the use of an electric assisted bicycle appealing.

Electric assisted bicycles should not be considered motor vehicles as they do not offer the power or speed of a fully functional motor vehicle. Amending the definition of an electric assisted bicycle and codifying into law the three types of electric assisted bicycles is the ideal approach to allowing electric assisted bicycles to be operated legally on public roadways.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today in support of House bill 1148.

Respectfully,

Justin Kristan,

Resident, West Fargo, North Dakota

